Bedford Forrest–Soldier ... General–Subject For UDC

Watkins Abbitt, Jr. gave a talk concerning General Nathan Bedford Forrest, CSA, during the December meeting of the Appomattox Chapter, UDC. Miss Julia Asher, Appomattox High School librarian, introduced the speaker. Hostesses for the meeting were Miss Asher and Mrs. Russell Paulette, at whose home the meeting was held.

UDC president Mrs. Calvin Robinson announced that the next meeting would be held January 16 and would be a dinner meeting.

General Forrest

Prepared by Watkins Abbitt, Jr.

Young Forrest displayed native talents and a thirst for an education, but the death of his father left a mother and large family dependent on his efforts for support. He then moved to Mississippi where by indomitable energy and good management he succeeded in accumulating a handsome fortune prior to the break out of the war. When war broke out, he promptly enlisted as a private soldier in the Confederate Army, but soon obtained permission to raise a cavalry regiment from Kentucky, Tennessee, and northern Alabama. After this he was made Colonel and entered at once upon the brilliant career which won for him the nickrames of "Wizard of the Saddle" and "Stonewall Jackson of the West."

Joining Albert Sidney Johnston he was at Fort Donelson when Grant advanced on that position. Protesting earnestly against surrender, he insisted that the army could get out and afterward proved it by leading his own regiment out without the loss of a man. He covered Johnston's retreat from Bowling Green, rendering most important services at the Battle of Shiloh, and began his brilliant career in and behind the lines of the enemy, which made him the pride of the Confederacy, and the terror of the Federals.

While Beauregard was at Tupelo, Mississippi, Forrest captured McMurtrvill and Murfreesboro, not hesitating to attack a brigade of two thousand infantry with half that number of poorly - mounted horses, and killing, wounding or capturing the entire force with its artillery and supplies. Replacement recruits reporting to Forrest on the field of battle without arms in their hands, asked where they might get arms. "Just follow along here," said the General. "There is going to be a fight with those folks over yonder and we'll get you some guns there."

One of his most brilliant exploits was the capture of Colonel Straight who started from Tuscumbia, Alabama, to capture Rome, Georgia. After forty-eight hours of strenuous riding, which broke down half of his horses, Forrest overtook Straight's rear guard and pressed him so hard that he was compelled to halt for battle within sight of Rome. Forrest then promptly and emphatically demanded Straight to surrender, and by a little strategy so deceived the Federal commander that he obeyed the summons, and was afterwards very much disappointed to find that he had surrendered a force of 1,600 men to less than 600.

On the death of General Van dorn, Forrest was placed in command of all of the cavalry of Bragg's army and in this position rendered most important services.

After the Battle of Chickamauga, he urged Bragg so earnestly to follow up his victory, that there was a serious difference between them, and Forrest resigned his commission of major-general, but the acceptance being refused he asked to be transferred to northern Mississippi, and this being granted, he performed there some of his most brilliant exploits. When Sherman made his advance from Vicksburg, intending to capture Mobile, he was to be jointed by 7,000 cavalry and ten pieces of artillery under Grierson from Memphis, but Forrest, with 1,700 men, attacked this column on the plains of Oklahoma so fiercely that he drove them back in confusion to Memphis, leaving their artillery, their dead and wounded and many prisoners in the hands of the victors.

One of his most brilliant affairs was at Tishomingo, Creek, where with not quite 5,000 cavalry, he utterly routed General Storgis with 7,000 infantry and 5,000 cavalry, killed, wounded, and captured all of his artillery and his entire wagon train– "everything on wheels" —and sent the remnants in disorder back to Memphis. He was made lieutenant - general and joined Hood, leading his advance on Nashville, and covering his retreat with such obstinate courage that in conjunction with General S. D. Lee, he saved the remnant of the army from utter destruction.

After the war, he was successfully engaged in business in Memphis. He also became an active and most liberal member of the Cumberland Presbyterian

Ten Year Old Missionary's Son Writes To Grandparents In U. S.

The following letter was written by a 10 year old, Scotty Stewart, son of missionary parents now stationed in Hong Kong. His great - aunt, Mrs. R. B. Haley gave the TIMES-VIRGINIAN permission to publish it. Scotty wrote the letter to his grandmother and grandfather, the B. E. Shots of Tampa, Fla. Mrs. Haley noted that the letter was typed by Scotty, himself, exactly as he composed it.

Dear Mammaw and pappaw,

How are you doing? How is pappaw? I like our new apartment very much. We have hardly any furniture. We have three chairs, twin beds (for timmy and I) a double bed, and a table, and most of the stuff isn't even ours. I will be going to Kowloon Jr. school, but they won't take me unless I have a private teacher so I have a private teacher now. Daddy is in language school and Timmy is in a Chinese School and is learning fast. There is a lot of people here in Hong Kong. The water is turned on every four days here, and you get thirsty most of the time. We got your letter today, and it was a good letter. Daddy was drawing a picture of a train for Timmy.

I get enough water to drink because Mom boils it and saves enough to last four days. It is hot here in the daytime. It is supposed to get cold here in January and Pobruary. We just got finished eating a big bowl of stew, and Linda is here with us. Linda came on the ship with us, and she is a missionary, too. I will have to learn cantonese. I like fried rice very, very much. It is very good. Mommy gets a letter from Mammaw almost every day, and Daddy Bo is alright.

The younger people and the business people wear Western type clothes, but the older people wear black or gray shirts with long pants. We are washing and studying both. Our apartment has a balcony on it, and we sometimes play on the balcony. It is about 8 p.m. now and everybody is getting a little tired, (except me). We have an ahma (a maid) that comes every Thursday and washes our clothes, mops the floor, etc. Linda just left a few minutes ago. Some men are building three big apartment buildings just across the street from us, and they are blasting, drilling, and hammering and the dust just pours in and makes almost everybody sneeze. I'm going to take a bath now, so I will finish this as soon as I get through. I had to go to bed right after my bath because it was getting late, so here I am again to finish the letter. I have to hurry because today is Sunday and I have to go to church in a little while. I have been real excited because my birthday and Christmas is coming up real soon. Mommy and Daddy are still in bed resting, and Timmy is up playing around.

There is a mountain beside us, too, and it is covered with little refugee huts. We don't know the receipe of the fried rice yet, but when we learn it we will send it to you, so you can try it. I don't think you would like to go to the market and shop, because the fish and the chicken are still alive and you are supposed to take them home and kill them and then you eat them. Well I have only a little bit more space to finish in, but I want to tell you that I love you very much. We wish we could of been there for pappaw's birthday because we could of had a birthday party for him. Thank you for the dollars you put in your letters.

I will write snother time, soon. I have to get ready for church now.

Your Grandson,
Scotty.

IN DENMARK

A Danish Christmas custom is the "Jul-bock" a long pole with a goat's head, whose duty it is to butt in when the children misbehave.

Hi! and Merry Christmas to Everyone!

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

There's no season quite like Christmas ... no custom quite so happy as the old tradition of exchanging greetings. With real appreciation for our cordial relations, we thank you and wish you a most joyful holiday.

THE FARMERS NATIONAL BANK
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

GREETINGS

In the true spirit of the season, we wish you all the "old-fashioned" joys of the holidays ... the ever-new delights of good friends around you, good times and good cheer, and the gladness of exchanging gifts and greetings.

And, in a spirit of sincere gratitude, we wish to extend our thanks for your favors and friendly good will. Each day in our business life makes us appreciate more deeply how much our pleasant association mean

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ian Traces History Of Educational System

The TIMES-VIRGIN- ... beneath the soo- ... history of Appo- ... ry school system ... Miss Julia Asher, ... High School librar- ... ian and president of the Appomattox Education Association.

In the first installment Miss Asher traced the beginnings of public schools from 1870. She writes that progress in the beginning was made, though Appomattox was recovering from the effects of the War which ended just five years earlier.

Captain Chapman H. Chilton, the first superintendent, was an ardent advocate of free schools. Had he not been, he would not have served as superintendent of Appomattox County schools from 1870-1897, except for the period 1881-1883 when the Readjusters assumed power in the county and Rev. J. B. Bristow became superintendent. Mr. Chilton could not have "carried on" without the help of the school board which was made up of Captain J. G. Patterson, H. D. LeGrand, J. C. Jones of No. 1 (Stonewall) District; W. M. Elliott, John H. Cunthorn, Wm. M. Hannah No. 2 (Southside) District; and Dr. Wm D. Christian, J. H. Marshall and W. F. Stanley No. 3 (Clover Hill) District.

From 1870 to around 1920 each Magisterial district in the county had its own board which more or less guided the schools in their district in following the directions of the entire county school board. Many were the problems of these men, not the least of which was securing money for the operation of the schools. In 1872, the earliest record available, the school board agree to "ask the Board of Supervisors to levy a tax of three fourth of one mill on the dollar or seven and one-half cents on the one hundred dollars, for county school purposes for the next scholastic year. The whole amount of taxable property real and personal in the county by the last assessment was $1,361,993.82 which at this rate will yield $1,021.49. There were distinct funds as well as county funds. One report says, "The money received from the state this year (1872) was $2,995.95; from county funds nothing and from distrust funds $272.85. The value of school property owned by the districts was $145.-96." The county owned no school property at this time, but divided the county fund among the three districts. Small wonder that school buildings were scarce as well as poorly constructed, poorly lighted and heated and often had dirt floors.

Who qualified under such conditions? Dedicated men and women. At first, men - returned soldiers - largely were the teachers. But soon women joined the forces and early out - numbered them and have continued to do so until the present time.

It is not surprising that the first public school in the county should have been at the Old Courthouse and probably within sight of what had once been Clover Hill Academy. Mr. James Henry Featherston taught the first public school in the county there in a log cabin in 1870. Thus we see that Appomattox began her public school system just same year it was adopted by the Virginia Legislature. What he taught, how many pupils he had or how long the term is not known. But it was a beginning! A beginning of a new way of life, when every child regardless of status or station in life had an equal opportunity to get an education if he were willing to make sufficient sacrifice and effort.

Locating buildings where school might be held was another problem that confronted the board since no money was available for building. In 1873 the dilapidated Girls' Female Academy building at Spout Spring was acquired for school purposes from the two living trustees at no cost. After some remaining, the building was used as a public school. Union Academy, a boys' school, once supported by Presbyterian and Baptist stood on land now owned by Mr. Richard N. Smith at Spout Spring. When a disagreement between Presbyterians and Baptists arose, the Baptist built Reedy Spring Academy, it is said. The patrons of Union Academy offered their building for public school use provided Mr. Chilton be allowed to teach there. Evidently the request was granted. When the board sought the use of Reedy Springs Academy, it was denied the privilege of using the building. To Mr. Bristow we are indebted for the following facts:

In 1872 there were 12 white and 9 colored schools with an enrollment of 544 white and 420 colored. The average attendance was 325 white and 241 colored.

"The books used, for want of means to purchase and owing to lack of uniformity at first were of every grade, degree and merit. But as time advanced, our schools in a lively degree fell into the line of progress on the book question and the most approved books were introduced and are now ('1885') in use," said Rev. J. B. Bristow, Superintendent.

In 1879 the question of the adoption of new textbooks was introduced at the school board meeting, but it was agreed to continue using the same ones (whatever they were.) In 1882 after Rev. J. B. Bristow had become superintendent the following textbooks were adopted:

Readers	Electric Series
Spellers	Electic Series
Geographies	Maury's Four BOOK Series
Arithmetic	White's Series
Histories	McFill's Va. & Eletic U. S.
Dictionaries	Webster's
Copy Books	Spencerian

From time to time new adoptions were made. In 1896 The Graphic Series of Copy Books was adopted. In 1899 Holmes' New History was approved. For the first time teachers had a part in selection of textbooks in 1898.

From time to time effort was made by the superintendent and some members of the board to introduce new devices that would further the progress of the system. Often due to lack of funds, or foresight or apathy, new ideas had to wait.

A proposal of Superintendent Hannah that vocal music be introduced into the school system was one that had to wait. The principal of the high school was given the right of supervision over the primary department. In 1893 when there was a smallpox epidemic, a board meeting was called "to consider the propriety of having the pupils of the schools vaccinated (but) the board decided to suspend the law governing vaccination. When in less than 10 years another outbreak of smallpox besieged the county the board voted to enforce the law. During one of the epidemics a resourceful teacher, knowing many of her pupils were financially unable to pay for being vaccinated, took her sewing needle to school and vaccinated the entire school by inserting the needle into her own vaccination and in turn scratching each pupil's arm. 1903 saw a janitor employed for the High School which stood where the Tom Moses house now stands. Coal began to be used as fuel at Appomattox High in 1905. The first mention made of supplying wood to schools was in 1905 when school board noted in its minutes $1.50 - $2.00 in county school; $2.00 - $2.50 in villages paid for wood per load. In 1906 Stonewall District turstees asked for a tax levy of 15c per $100 in order to secure funds to repair schools.

After some years what had been one-room schools came to have two teachers. By '06 "higher branches'" were introduced into the schools where there was a demand — provided the teacher of a one-room school devoted not more than one hour per day to its instruction. If the school were fortunate enough to have two teachers, two hours might be devoted to the "richer branches." No extra charge for this instruction was allowed.

Caldwell Attends Naval School

NORFOLK, VA. (FHTNC) — Marvin A. Caldwell, fireman apprentice, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Caldwell, of Route 2, Appomattox, is attending the Naval Amphibious School Little Creek, Norfolk, Va., for a three-week course on Landing Craft Engines.

This course covers theoretical and practical instruction in the operation, maintenance and repair of the engines used in amphibious crafts.

The school has an annual enrollment of 18,000. Persons from all branches of the Armed Forces and those of friendly nations receive training in amphibious operations each year.

Fifty courses are presently offered which vary from one day to four months. The areas of training include naval somfire support, air support, ship - to - shore movement, communications, intelligence and engineering. The Navy's Frogmen also receive baste training there.

Harvey Is Top Supervisor For His Concern

Charles A. Harvey, of Danville, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Harvey, Sr. of Appomattox, has been named Smith - Douglass Sales Supervisor of the Year for Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina, Executive Vice President, J. H. Culpepper of the Smith - Douglass Company announced today.

The presentation was made Thursday night at the Princess Anne County Club, Virginia Beach.

As Sales Supervisor of the Year, Harvey and his wife, Rae win a free vacation for seven days and deluxe air flight to and from one of these vacation spots Miami Beach; Mexico City; New Orleans; Bermuda; Las Vegas; or New York City. Also included in the prizes are a Kodak Automatic 35 mm camera, 3 pieces of matched luggage, $150.00 spending money, and a baby sitter while they're away.

Harvey, 31, joined Smith-Douglas in 1960 at Danville after serving four years in the U. S. Army in Alaska. He is a native of Appomattox, and graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a B. S. degree. For the past three years, he has supervised Smith - Douglas sales representatives in Franklin, Henry and Pittsylvania Counties.

Christmas Rose Famed In Legend

Blooming in the heart of winter and sometimes even in the snow, the Christmas rose is a plant famed in legend.

According to an old story, a poor little shepherdess had no gift to offer the Christ Child, and so she wept. When her tears touched the ground, flowers sprouted.

Delighted, she plucked an armful and hastened to the infant. The caress of His fingers turned the petals pink.

Botanists class the Christmas rose as a member of the buttercup family. Native to Southern Europe and western Asia, it has leathery, dark green leaves and large, saucer - shaped flowers with white or rose-tinged sepals, according to The Encyclopedia Americana.

Greetings

We wish you the greatest joys of the season ... a festive holiday in a happy home where family and friends gather to exchange gifts and greetings, to light the fire, trim the tree, bask in the warmth of real affection.

REAMS FURNITURE COMPANY
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REAMS WAYSIDE STORE
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LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

Greetings

As cheery as a cheery hearth,
As a gaily-lighted tree
And warm-hearted
As your joy and contentment at
Happy holiday season. We greatly enjoy
Pleasant business relations
With you and hope that they may long
Continue. To you, our most grateful thanks.

APPOMATTOX BEAUTY SHOP
ROSE MAE WOOLDRIDGE
KATH ROBINSON IRIS GARRETTE

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As an expression of our thanks and good will, we extend to friends, old and new, our best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a holiday season filled with good cheer.

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Christmas Greetings

For you and your dear ones at Christmas, we wish the most precious gifts of all ... the gifts of faith, hope and love ... faith sustained by the spirit of Christmas ... hope for lasting Peace on Earth ... love ever bright with the blessings of family and home, and enriched by good will toward all men.

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